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that an instance is given in which the harmonic mean is employed without any explanation as to when this mean is to be used or how it is obtained. It is remarkable that in a work of this kind, no reference is made to the regularity of a series or to standard deviation from the average. In the section devoted to the use of diagrams, the student is warned against the most common errors of this much abused method of representation.

With the exception of certain figures relating to trade, the statistics which are used as examples are taken almost entirely from the publications of Great Britain and apply almost without exception to the United Kingdom.

It would be difficult to name a work in which the contents and reliability of British official publications are described more clearly than in the second half of this work. Taken as a whole, this manual is perhaps the best elementary textbook upon statistics which can be put in the hands of the beginner. It would be of great value to American students if a volume were prepared showing the reliability of the statistical material in the official publications in this country and pointing out the sources of the most reliable information upon our social and industrial life. The value of the volume as a textbook is much increased by the addition of a number of questions upon the points covered in the different chapters. Professor Bowley in this and his previous work upon statistics has done much to provide the teacher of statistics with suitable textbooks.

WM. B. BAILEY.

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Primer of Statistics. By W. PALIN ELDERTON, Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries, and ETHEL M. ELDERTON, Galton Research Scholar in National Eugenics. (London: Adams & Chas. Black, 1909. Pp. 86.)

The *Primer of Statistics* is one of the most useful books upon the theory of statistics which have appeared in English, for it contains in a few pages and in terms intelligible to a person who is not competent to deal with higher mathematics, the principles which should govern the abstraction of statistical data. The

arrangement of the book is extremely clear and logical. The first chapters deal with the mean, median, mode, and frequency distribution. The short chapter devoted to standard deviation could not well be improved. Perhaps the section of most value to the average student is that on correlation. This method is so commonly used by the new school of statistics that a short treatment of this kind is timely. It is unfortunate that this subject was not developed further with more extended reference to the methods ordinarily employed. In the concluding chapter upon probable error the reader is left somewhat in doubt as to the value which should be chosen. In the hands of a competent teacher, this little book should prove of value as a text. In a treatment of such brevity much is of necessity omitted, but reference to the volumes mentioned in the footnotes would enable an ambitious student to supply these deficiencies. The book will repay careful reading by students of economics and sociology who wish to avoid the pitfalls of statistics.

W. B. B.

La Mortalité Énfantile dans les Flandres. Étude de Démographie Belge. By CAMILLE JACQUART. (Brussels: Albert Dewitt, 1907. Pp. 156.)

The two Belgian provinces of East and West Flanders, each with an area equal approximately to that of Rhode Island, have a combined population somewhat under two million. For this little group of people there exists a mass of excellent mortality data, which by its completeness and detail is calculated to inspire envy in the hearts of American statisticians, if not awe, at the thought of what might transpire from equally exhaustive data regarding our own population. For American students such studies as this of M. Jacquart are of value chiefly because they indicate the character of the work done by foreign statistical bureaus generally, and as generally neglected by our own bureaus. While the conditions of high infantile mortality in Flanders appear to be more or less provincial, and influenced by the peculiar physical environment under which the people live, or by the local prejudices, habits, ignorance and character of the population itself.